From: slawso@artic.edu@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 2:20pm

I believe that harsher penalties should be imposed on Microsoft. Currently the consumer market for a PC is approximately 90% for Microsoft. Apple, Linux, BE, and a few even smaller others are scraping for the remaining 10%. I also think that Microsoft should be held responsible for software that it releases that might comprimise personal information. For example Microsoft passport has been cracked into three or more times already. Once using email via hotmail (another Microsoft owned company). The Code Red internet virus scare was only affecting Microsoft machines running their IIS software with the language set to English. It seems to me that our industries dependance on this company is too great. Clearly they should be presenting the best possible software, and responding to security holes in a timely manner. If our industry was built on some diversity then not all areas of the economy would be taken under at once. Then there is the forced passport signup with Windows XP. Or that at Starbucks.com one's only option for paying online is to use microsoft passport. Then there is the xbox, another microsoft invention to take over the privacy of the consumers home. Completely compatable with microsoft windows, games will be easily ported, etc. Users are already posting pictures on the web about the xbox's "green screen of death" which everyone is familiar with the blue version on previous Microsoft products. Contrast this with Sony's playstation or Nintendo's gamecube who have near perfect track records so far in the game console area. They know and understand that consumer quality is of upmost importance. I believe that Microsoft just doesn't care. Take for example microsoft's new play per use software licensing idea. Where users with be forced to upgrade their software at a cost, whether they want to or not. Or how about Microsoft's exclusion of the java virtual machine from Windows XP? They are making it easier for users who may not know alot about compters to get hooked on j# and the .net system, instead of even knowing what java is and then choosing. Microsoft forces smaller companies to use their standards, and file formats. Recently I found that the search engine in windowsXP will refuse to find files that have extentions not registered with Microsoft. ie: a file.png might never be found. Try reading the End user license agreement for microsoft frontpage, maybe some freedom of speech issues there.

regardless I think that Microsoft should be held resposible for its products, and should be forced to provide the best possible system they can. If eventually we have to use Microsoft products, then I will quit using computers all together and find a job painting houses or something.

my two bits,
Shawn